

Request for Reconsideration
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Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of assembling a frame structure of a SDH signal at a hierarchy level N , comprising:
 - receiving a hierarchically multiplexed administrative unit $AU-n$ comprising a payload and an $AU-n$ pointer;
 - translating said $AU-n$ to a tributary unit $TU-n$ by putting said $AU-n$ pointer of said $AU-n$ into the $TU-n$; and
 - hierarchically multiplexing said $TU-n$ into said frame structure, where $n \geq 3$, and gives the granularity of said SDH signal, and said $AU-n$ pointer provides the beginning of said payload with respect to said frame structure.
2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of translating comprises:
 - translating said $AU-n$ payload into a $TU-n$ payload; and
 - transforming said $AU-n$ pointer into a $TU-n$ pointer and aligning said $AU-n$ payload into said $TU-n$ based on said $TU-n$ pointer.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of hierarchically multiplexing comprises:
 - mapping said $TU-n$ into a tributary unit group $TUG-n$;
 - hierarchically multiplexing said $TUG-n$ into a higher order $TUG-k$;
 - mapping said $TUG-k$ into a higher order virtual container $VC-k$ of same hierarchical level;
 - aligning said higher order virtual container into a $AU-k$ by providing a $AU-k$ pointer;
 - mapping said $AU-k$ into an administrative unit group $AUG-k$ and
 - assembling said frame structure from said $AUG-k$,where $k \geq n$.

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4. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said step of translating said AU-n payload comprises:
 - mapping the user information from said AU-n payload into said TU-n payload field; and
 - providing fixed stuff bits whenever the size of said TU-n payload field is larger than the area occupied by said user information.
5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said step of hierarchically multiplexing said TUG-n into a TUG-k comprises:
 - (a) mapping said TU-n into a TUG-n;
 - (b) multiplexing said TUG-n into a VC-k;
 - (c) mapping VC-k into a TU-k by adding a POH field corresponding to a hierarchical level k;
 - (d) mapping said TU-k into a TUG-k; and
 - (e) repeating steps (a) to (e) to the hierarchy level N.
6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein $n=3$ and $N=4$ for obtaining a hierarchically multiplexed STM-4.
7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of hierarchically multiplexing comprises:
 - mapping said TU-3 into a tributary unit group TUG-3;
 - hierarchically multiplexing said TUG-3 into a TUG-5;
 - mapping said TUG-5 into a higher order virtual container VC-5 of same hierarchical level;
 - aligning said higher order virtual container into a AU-5 by providing a AU-5 pointer;
 - mapping said AU-5 into an administrative unit group AUG-N; and
 - assembling said frame structure from said AUG-4 group.

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8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein $n=4$ and $N=4$ for obtaining a hierarchically multiplexed STM-4.
9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said step of hierarchically multiplexing comprises:
 - mapping said TU-4 into a tributary unit group TUG-4;
 - hierarchically multiplexing said TUG-4 into a TUG-5;
 - mapping said TUG-5 into a higher order virtual container VC-5 of same hierarchical level;
 - aligning said higher order virtual container into a AU-5 by providing a AU-5 pointer;
 - mapping said AUG-5 into a administrative unit group AUG-N; and
 - assembling said frame structure from said AUG-4 group.
10. (Previously presented) A method of assembling a frame structure of a SDH signal comprising:
 - receiving a hierarchically multiplexed administrative unit AU-n-mc comprising a concatenated payload and an AU-n-mc pointer;
 - translating said AU-n-mc to a tributary unit TU-n-mc by putting said AU-n-mc pointer of said AU-n-mc into the TU-n-mc; and
 - hierarchically multiplexing said TU-n-mc into said frame structure, where $n \geq 3$, and give the granularity of said speed payload, m is the level of concentration and said AU-n-mc pointer provides the beginning of said payload with respect to said frame structure.
11. (Previously presented) A method of reducing the number of AU pointers of a very high speed synchronous transport signal STM-N with AU-n granularity, an AU-n unit having an AU pointer and an AU payload, the method comprising:
 - for each AU-n unit, putting said AU-n pointer into said AU payload;

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translating said AU-n payload having the AU-n pointer placed therein to a TU-n payload; and

hierarchically multiplexing said TU-n into a frame structure.

12. (Previous Presented) A hierarchically multiplexed signal for transport over a multiplex section of a synchronous network, comprising:

a payload field with a coarse AU granularity corresponding to the granularity of a higher order tributary, said payload field carrying a plurality of fine granularity AU pointers hidden in a TU pointer area; and

a section overhead field including a coarse granularity AU pointer.

13. (Original) A signal as claimed in claim 12, wherein said higher order tributary has a minimum size corresponding to an STM-4.

14. (Original) A signal as claimed in claim 13, wherein said higher order tributary has a size corresponding to one of an STM-16, STM-64 and STM-256.

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